

REMARKS

Applicant has canceled Claim 10 without prejudice and added new Claims 44-53. As a result, Claims 1-53 are pending in the present application. Consideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and following comments is respectfully requested.

Canceled Claim 10

Claim 10 is hereby canceled because it is an exact duplication of Claim 13. Therefore, because Claim 13 remains pending, Applicant is not surrendering the subject matter of Claim 10, despite its cancellation.

Copied Claims, Including New Claims 44-51

As pointed out to the Examiner in the now-abandoned parent application, Serial No. 10/158,295, Claims 1, 2 and 4 of the present application have been directly copied from United States Patent No. 6,238,405, which issued on May 29, 2001, to Thomas R. Findlay, III, and James R. Madonia. In particular, Claims 1, 9, and 13 of that patent have been directly copied as Claims 1, 2, and 4 of the present application, respectively. Claim 3 of the present application is substantially the same as Claim 12 of the '405 patent.

Claims 5-8 of the present application rewrite Claims 1-4 of the present application using language found within the present application.

Also as disclosed to the Examiner in the parent application, Claims 9-25 have been directly copied from United States Patent No. 6,623,495 to Thomas R. Findlay, III, and James R. Madonia, filed January 18, 2001, and issued September 23, 2003. Specifically, Claims 9, 11, and 12 of the present application correspond respectively to Claims 1-3 of the '495 patent. Claims 13-15 of the present application correspond to Claims 5-7 of the '495 patent. Claims 16-19 of the present application correspond to Claims 9-12 of the '495 patent. Claims 20-22 of the present application correspond to Claims 19-21 of the '495 patent. Claims 23-25 correspond to Claims 39-41 of the '495 patent.

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Claims 26-42 of the present application generally correspond to Claims 9-25 of the present application. These claims have been rewritten using language found in the present application.

New Claims 44-51 are directly copied from Claims 1-8 of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0229369 to Thomas R. Findlay, III, and James R. Madonia, filed March 2, 2001, and published December 11, 2003.

Different Inventions

Claim 43 of the present application is directed to a separate invention from the other claims in the present application, namely, a method of removing thrombus material from a thrombectomy site.

New Claims 52 and 53

New Claims 52 and 53 are exact copies of claims (Claims 72 and 73) canceled by the Applicant from a co-owned and related application, U.S. Patent Application No. 09/737,165, filed December 14, 2000. In that related '165 application, these two claims were subject to obviousness-type double patenting rejections over U.S. Patent Nos. 6,001,112 and 6,482,217.

CONCLUSION

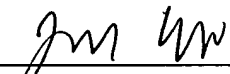
In view of the foregoing amendments and comments, examination of the present application is requested. If there are any questions, however, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorney so that any such matters may be promptly resolved.

Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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